

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 077072
ORIGIN SNM-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 AID-05 DODE-00 HEW-04
AGRE-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13 JUSE-00
NSAE-00 CTME-00 TRSE-00 OES-07 OMB-01 USIE-00
NSCE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 /071 R

DRAFTED BY S/NM:RADUGSTAD:OSD
APPROVED BY S/NM:MFALCO
ARA/MEX:KMCKUNE
ARA/RPP:JKEANE
DEA:DGALANOS
S/NM:LALEXANDER
ODAP:LDOGOLOFF

-----125119 242220Z /63
O 242203Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 077072

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, MX

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS - MONITORING GOM ERADICATION PROGRAM

REF: (A) MEXICO 04291, (B) STATE 073050, (C) MEXICO 04104

1. IN REF (B), DEPARTMENT CONCURRED IN EMBASSY'S RECOM-
MENDATION GOM ERADICATON CAMPAIGN BE TRANSFERRED TO NAR-
COTICS ASSISTANCE UNIT (NAU). MEETING CHAIRED BY PETER
BOURNE, PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR HEALTH AFFAIRS,
ON MARCH 23, DISCUSSED NEED FOR ADEQUATE OBSERVATION OF
AND REPORTING ON CAMPAIGN DURING NEXT FEW WEEKS.

2. DEA ADMINISTRATOR BENSINGER OPENED MEETING BY EXPRES-
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SING CONCERN THAT NAU MAY NOT HAVE ADEQUATE STAFF IMME-
DIATELY AVAILABLE TO ASSUME MONITORING AND REPORTING
FUNCTION DURING CLOSING PHASES OF CURRENT GROWING SEASON,
WHICH HE NOTED MAY BE DELAYED BY COLD WEATHER AND DROUGHT
REPORTED BY EMBASSY. HE SUGGESTED POSSIBILITY OF USG CON-
TRACTING EVERGREEN PILOTS, OSTENSIBLY FOR REFRESHER TRAIN-
ING FOR MEXICAN HELICOPTER PILOTS, TO PROVIDE NAU ADEQUATE

STAFF IN FIELD IN IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

3. EMBASSY OFFICERS PRESENT AT MEETING (NARCOTICS ATTACHE KIERE, NARCOTICS ASSISTANCE ATTACHE BERNAL AND SPECIAL

ASSISTANT MCLAUGHLIN) REPORTED ON STAFF IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE AND SUGGESTED POSSIBILITY OF CONTRACTING WITH USG FIRM TO FIELD TEST LORAN-C OR OTHER PRECISION POSITION REPORTING SYSTEM AS SUGGESTED IN REF (C), IN WHICH CASE POSITION REPORTING FEASIBILITY COULD BE ADVANCED WHILE SIMULTANEOUSLY GETTING U.S. OBSERVERS INTO FIELD OPERATIONS. OTHER LEGITIMATE CONTRACT OBJECTIVES MAY BE CONSIDERED IN ORDER TO SERVE MULTIPLE PURPOSES.

4. DEA ADMINISTRATOR EXPRESSED FURTHER CONCERN THAT SOME USG PRESENCE ON CONTINUING BASIS WAS NEEDED TO ASSURE THAT GOM PERSONNEL IN FIELD FLEW AS SCHEDULED AND OFFERED DEA'S ASSISTANCE, IF NEEDED, TO TRAIN WHATEVER USG OBSERVERS NAU SENDS TO FIELD. BERNAL SUGGESTED THAT DEA MIGHT ALSO EMPHASIZE ITS CONTINUED INTEREST BY PROVIDING TO ATTORNEY GENERAL FLORES WEEKLY REPORTS ON PRICE AND PURITY OF HEROIN IN THE UNITED STATES. DEA ADMINISTRATOR NOTED THAT WEEKLY DATA IS SUBJECT TO WIDE FLUCTUATION BUT AGREED THAT THIS DATA COULD BE PROVIDED TO FLORES AS EVIDENCE OF DEA CONCERN ABOUT ERADICATION PROGRAM.

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5. ALL PARTICIPANTS IN MEETING AGREED THAT ADEQUATE STEPS NEED TO BE TAKEN IN SHORT TERM TO ASSURE ADEQUATE OBSERVATION AND REPORTING ON BALANCE OF CURRENT CAMPAIGN, FOLLOWING WHICH TIME WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR NAU TO GEAR UP FOR THIS ADDITIONAL FUNCTION.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT EMBASSY COMMENT ON OPTIONS EXPRESSED DURING MEETING, PROPOSE OTHER OPTIONS WHICH EMBASSY MAY PERCEIVE, AND INFORM DEPARTMENT ASAP OF EMBASSY'S SUGGESTED COURSE OF ACTION, INCLUDING WHAT WILL BE DONE TO PUT APPROPRIATE STAFF IN THE FIELD IMMEDIATELY.
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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 24 mar 1978
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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